



Daily Report

East Europe

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Meksi Views Albanians in Kosovo, Greek Minority

*AU0809122993 Tirana ATA in English 0850 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Tirana, September 8 (ATA)—Premier Aleksander Meksi attended a session of the meeting of EC Committee for Non-European Community Member Countries, held in Tirana on September 7, where he presented a report on the work of the first democratic government.

500 Day Office of the First Democratic Government

After mentioning the growth of agricultural production, reduction of inflation and increasing rates of privatization, Mr. Meksi focused on the support of international organizations, the World Bank, the USA, and European countries for Albania. Premier Meksi condemned the attempts of the opposition forces, particularly the socialist opposition to hinder the economic reform in Albania and voiced his resolution to continue the economic reform further, because "We have the support of the majority of the people and European organizations," Mr. Meksi declared.

The Conflict in Former Yugoslavia and the Kosova Issue

Premier Meksi voiced the option of the government concerning the conflict in former Yugoslavia and the issues of Kosova. He said that events increasingly show that the Serbs practise only ethnic cleansing and added that in case the conflict will extend to Kosova inhabited by Albanians, Albania will react and will never allow "ethnic cleansing of the Albanians and their treatment like Bosnians."

"We do not intend at establishing great Albania nor the violent change of borders, but we wish peace and stability in the region and the observation of rights and freedoms of our brothers in Kosova and former Yugoslavia," declared Mr. Serreqi, Albanian foreign minister who also attended the meeting. Asked about the reaction of the Albanian Government in case the conflict extends to Kosova, Mr. Serreqi said that "The Albanians, wherever they are, will strongly react without waiting for the Albanian Government to make decisions, because it is about existence of the people."

Albanians Will Not Erect Walls for the Minority People

Speaking about the attitude of the government to the Greek minority, Premier Meksi declared that the "Albanians have never erected walls for the minority people, but certain chauvinistic circles are instigating such a thing. The Albanian Government declared since the first day it came to the office that all nationals are equal, implying the Greek minority too, who have their own representatives in the parliament, government, and take part in science, culture and other walks of life in Albania." Mr. Meksi informed the EC representatives that "We observe the rights and freedoms of the minority

people under the charter of international law, but we do not tolerate the Greek request to change the Albanians' name in exchange for a visa or employment charter." Premier Meksi also stressed that the Albanian Government is committed to maintain as good as possible relations with neighbouring Greece, which is in keeping with the Albanian policy of good neighbourliness with all the neighbours and is to the good of peace in the region and broader.

Harassment by Greek Border Forces Protested

*AU0709163693 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in
Albanian 1330 GMT 7 Sep 93*

[Text] A report by the Public Order Ministry spokesman states that at about 1000 on 5 September, more than 100 enraged people from Kakavije village, in Gjirokaster District, gathered at the border with Greece to protest the mistreatment of six of their fellow-villagers by Greek border forces. The following persons were beaten and mistreated: [Words indistinct], Thanas Rrapi, Kristaq Samati, Nesti Karajani, and Foto Zoto. All the aforementioned minority citizens were supplied with regular documents obtained at the Greek police station. They were working in a Greek village near Kakavije, where they were detained, beaten, and mistreated.

To calm the situation and avoid any possible incident, Captain Sali Cuko, the district chief police, went immediately to the Kakavije border point. He talked with the villagers and convinced them to leave. They left, requesting that the Albanian Government protest this act.

The mayor of Delvinaq and the Ioannina border point commander arrived at the border from the Greek side at 1330. A joint meeting was held at Greek customs between them and the injured persons, in the presence of the Kakavije border-crossing point commander. The Greek side agreed that this was an unjust act and said they will take measures so that such incidents do not occur again, the Public Order Ministry spokesman concludes.

Helsinki Committee Protests Over Greek Harassment

*AU0809142893 Tirana ATA in English 1024 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[*"Albanian Helsinki Committee Protests Maltreatment of the Minority People by the Greek Border Guards"—Declaration of the Albanian Helsinki Committee"—ATA headline*]

[Text] Tirana, September 8 (ATA)—The Helsinki Committee expresses deep sorrow regarding the incident that took place in the Kakavije border point and which may further aggravate relations between the two countries at a time when concrete efforts for their improvement are expected on both sides of the border.

Representatives of the Albanian Helsinki Committee went on the spot and reported as follows:

On September 4, 1993 some Greek border guards maltreated and stole the money of nine villagers of Kakavije, Greek minority village near Greece, who were working in this border area. The victims were: Stavro Lako, bourgmaster [mayor] of Kakavije village; Spiro Zoto, age 35, farmer; Thanas Rafti, age 34, farmer; Kristo Camati, age 19, worker; Foto Zoto, age 40, worker; Orest Karjani, age 14, worker; as well as Kleopatra Lako, age 61, together with her 5 year-old niece, and Izmini Gaco, age 4.

On September 5, 1993, the next day, nearly 100 Greek minority villagers of Kakavije gathered and protested against the Kakavije Greek border guards. No incident took place during this protest.

The Albanian Helsinki Committee voices its protest against the September 4 incident and at the same time calls on the Greek authorities to dissociate themselves from these acts and take the necessary actions to prevent such incidents which aggravate the Albanian-Greek relations.

Our committee considers the Greek minority in Albania as an important factor of friendship and as a bridge for the relations between the two neighbouring peoples.

Official on Islamic Ties, Reports of U.S. Base

*LD0809161493 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Athens, Sept. 8, IRNA—Albania's ties with the Arab and Muslim world were growing rapidly following the Balkan country's membership in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), a high-ranking Albanian official told IRNA. Egerem Mete, director for Arab and Balkan countries in the Albanian Foreign Ministry, told IRNA that after the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Tirana, Albania's ties with the Islamic Republic were "very good" and on the way of expansion. Albania is the only Muslim-majority state in Europe. Over 80 percent of its 3.2 million population is Muslim.

But till now Albania has only one embassy in the Middle East, in Egypt. Mete said Albania is planning to open an embassy in Riyadh soon. Mete urged Muslim countries to take a united and decisive stance to support the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said Albania wants Muslim countries to invest in Albania to develop its tourist industry and other branches of economy.

The Albanian official, who was in Greece to attend a conference on European security, denied press reports that Tirana was thinking of granting a military base to the Americans on the island of Sazar. "These reports are not true," he told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Berov Reaffirms Need To Observe UN Embargo

AU0809181693 Sofia BTA in English 1519 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Sofia, September 8 (BTA)—Bulgaria cannot but unconditionally observe the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro because it is a member of the United Nations and the UN Charter binds each member state to observe the UN resolutions, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov said today in an interview for BTA, the Bulgarian National Television, and the Bulgarian National Radio when asked to comment on the two stands which have emerged in the Bulgarian political circles on whether the embargo should be observed or not. If we try, despite our being a small country, to oppose a UN resolution, this would immediately turn us into an embargo state, Prof. Berov said. He believes it would be foolish and risky for Bulgaria to declare that it would not observe the embargo.

The prime minister observed the fact that when it comes to observing the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro Bulgaria is in the front line but in most other cases it is pushed to the background. By way of illustration the prime minister pointed to the signing of interim agreement on trade with the EC in which Bulgaria is at the rear of the other countries wishing to join the EC.

According to the prime minister, Bulgaria is also one of the less favoured nations when it comes to foreign debt servicing. We have good reason to be granted more favourable conditions than Poland, for instance, because the economic indices of that country are better than ours and because it is not suffering losses from the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro, Prof. Berov said.

Bulgaria has good reason to claim for a better consideration of its stands at the foreign debt negotiations, the prime minister said.

Berov Favors Forming Corruption Commission

AU0809181593 Sofia BTA in English 1628 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Sofia, September 8 (BTA)—Interviewed for the national media, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov said today that it would be expedient to appoint a parliamentary commission of inquiry into the corruption of political parties and the executive. He specified that this is a wish and a request to parliament as it would help expose pernicious phenomena in Bulgaria's public and political life.

Prof. Berov disclosed that some political parties in Bulgaria have established commercial partnerships and import petroleum products, alcoholic drinks and cigarettes. He read a list, compiled by the General Customs Directorate, of several little-known parties which carried out such imports, and specified their value. Prime Minister Berov said these parties are carrying out extrinsic activities, and that this is a matter of enrichment of individuals rather than of political activities.

"I believe we will find common ground with National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov to work together for Bulgaria," Prime Minister Berov said, asked to comment on Mr. Yordanov's statement to parliament that everyone should mind one's own business. Asked about his reaction to criticism of his government and himself, the prime minister answered that a democratically organized society cannot function without criticism. "Criticism is always welcome—provided it is constructive," Mr. Berov said.

Assembly Approves Neev's Removal

AU0809201593 Sofia BTA in English 1849 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Sofia, September 8 (BTA)—Deputy Prime Minister Neycho Neev was relieved of the post of deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers after an open ballot in parliament. 129 MP's voted for his resignation, 81 were against and five abstained.

Prime Minister Lyuben Berov, on whose motion the deputy prime minister resigned and the post vacated by him closed down, acquainted the MP's with his motives. He said that the deputy prime minister had violated the code of conduct of cabinet members. Among the gaffes of his deputy, Prime Minister Berov mentioned the talks held by Neycho Neev with a Serbian delegation without having been assigned such a task and without informing the cabinet. He also pointed out that there was friction between cabinet members and that as prime minister he had been faced with the necessity to choose. Mr. Neev acted befittingly by handing in his resignation, Prime Minister Berov said, adding that the resignation of his deputy is in the interest of preserving the efficiency of the cabinet.

Neycho Neev, who also addressed parliament, described his resignation as a desperate move to give the president, parliament and other institutions food for thought. According to him, corrupt persons and parties are ruining this country. He defended his actions, pointing out that they were dictated solely by his concern for Bulgaria's future.

The parliamentary group of the Bulgarian Socialist Party supported the motion for Mr. Neev's resignation and the Union of Democratic Forces declared itself against it. The Movement for Rights and Freedoms, under the mandate of which this cabinet was formed, did not take part in the debates.

During the previous overhaul of the cabinet Mr. Neev was relieved of the post of minister of transport and last week he resigned from the post of chairman of the Power Engineering Committee.

Press Comments on Romanian Map, Neev Resignation*AU0909105593 Sofia BTA in English 0909 GMT 9 Sep 93***[From BTA 9 September "Press Review"]**

[Excerpt] Sofia, September 9 (BTA)—"Romanians place southern Dobrudzha and good neighbourly relations at stake," a frontpage headline in TRUD reads. Bulgaria is shown without southern Dobrudzha on a physiographical map of Romania published and circulated in that country, a copy of which reached the editorial office of the TRUD daily. "This is nothing but a territorial claim on Bulgaria," former longstanding diplomats told TRUD. "I can state officially that the Romanian leadership has no intentions of changing the borders," Adrian Dragomir, first secretary of the Romanian Embassy in Sofia, told TRUD. He added on his own behalf that both in Bulgaria and in Romania there are groupings sparing no effort in trying to sever relations with neighbouring states. Citing well-informed sources, TRUD writes that the company which published the map is the official publisher of geographic maps in Romania over the past five years so this map can hardly be described as an apocryphal publication. TRUD adds that it is expecting an official reaction from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The dailies frontpage reports and commentaries of the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Neycho Neev voted in parliament yesterday. The Union of Democratic Forces' [SDS] defence of Mr. Neev, a man whom

the SDS has publicly ridiculed hundreds of times, shows the perverse attitude of the SDS to political life, the socialist DUMA daily quotes Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) leader Zhan Videnov as saying. "Neev exposed corruption in this country," the DEMOKRATSIYA daily writes. According to this daily, the parliamentary majority (BSP and coalition) came to yesterday's sitting of parliament not to debate but to cast its vote once again in support of the "corrupt government in which Neev refused to take part." Criticizing the economic team of the government, Neev did not mention the name of a single colleague, the press observes. Prime minister Berov, Khristo Yordanov of the New Union for Democracy and Nora Ananieva, floor leader of the parliamentary group of the BSP and coalition, talked for almost half an hour with Neycho Neev in the office of Yordan Shkolagerski (Deputy National Assembly Chairman and MP of the BSP) persuading him to be discreet. KONTINENT writes. According to parliamentary sources, an offer made by a high-ranking official for a prime minister's post in a caretaker cabinet was the price for the silence of "honest but naive" Neycho Neev. OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK writes. The Constitutional Court will probably have to decide on the need for structural changes in the cabinet after the resignation of the deputy prime minister, OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK adds. The SDS supports Neycho Neev because it wants the resignation of the entire cabinet and this is one of the ways for provoking a cabinet crisis, Valentin Vasilev MP of the SDS told 24 CHASA. Mr. Neev was forced to distance himself from the speakers who supported him because of their transparent tactics, ZEMYA writes. [passage omitted]

**Havel's Spokesman: Government Informed of
Rushdie Visit**

*AU0809134693 Prague CTK in English 2135 GMT
6 Sep 93*

[Text] Prague, Sep 6 (CTK)—The Czech Government was informed in time of Czech President Vaclav Havel's planned meeting with British writer Salman Rushdie, which took place in Prague last Thursday [2 September], Havel's spokesman Ladislav Spacek told Czech Television tonight.

He was reacting to Premier Vaclav Klaus' statement earlier today that he had not been informed previously of Rushdie's visit.

Havel informed personally Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec of the visit, Spacek was quoted as saying by Czech Television.

In his statement today, Klaus said Havel's meeting with Rushdie was the president's personal affair and in no way an act directed against Islamic countries.

Rushdie was in the Czech Republic on September 2-5 to participate in a seminar on nationalism and racism in Liblice, near Prague, sponsored by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly.

Spacek told CTK on Sunday that Havel's meeting with Rushdie was a manifestation of Havel's professional and human solidarity with Rushdie.

Havel, a writer himself, had tried to meet Rushdie in London in March 1990, but was forbidden to do so by British authorities.

Rushdie has been in hiding since February 1989, when Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini pronounced a death sentence on him for blasphemy against Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

Spokesman Admits Errors

*LD0809214193 Prague CTK in English 2116 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Prague, Sept 8 (CTK)—No essential differences in the Czech political leaders' views of relationship between morality and politics exist, in spite of some pronouncements made recently, Czech President Vaclav Havel's spokesman Ladislav Spacek said tonight.

He was speaking with CTK after a meeting at Prague Castle which brought together Havel, Premier Vaclav Klaus, Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and Interior Minister Jan Ruml.

The four politicians consider it most unfortunate that in connection with the recent visit by Salman Rushdie to the Czech Republic, some inaccurate and misinterpreted statements were made, Spacek said. He added that partly responsible for this were also some of his statements, which did not correspond to reality. He did not specify these statements.

Rushdie, a British writer of Indian origin, has been living in hiding for 4-1/2 years to escape a death sentence pronounced by Iran's late Ayatollah Khomeini for his novel *The Satanic Verses*. Rushdie visited the Czech Republic on September 2-5, taking part in a seminar on nationalism and racism held in Liblice, near Prague. On Thursday [2 September], he met privately with Havel, a writer himself.

A row has erupted between Havel and Klaus over the former's meeting with Rushdie. Klaus said he had not been informed of Rushdie's visit, and pointed out that the Havel-Rushdie meeting had been Havel's personal affair and in no way an act directed against Islamic countries.

Klaus also dismissed Havel's statements concerning Rushdie as philosophical musings having absolutely nothing in common with political considerations.

This has led to renewed calls from government coalition parties for coordination of the Czech Republic's foreign policy.

The meeting at Prague Castle tonight produced the lesson that mutual cooperation and coordination of the activities of individual constitutional officials must improve in order to prevent the occurrence of similar misunderstandings in future, Spacek said.

Klaus Declines Comment

*LD0809205793 Prague CTK in English 2045 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Prague, Sept 8 (CTK)—Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus declined to comment today on whether he personally felt solidarity with the Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, who was sentenced to death in absentia by the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989.

I decline to comment on these speculations and give the possibility of opening the lid on this matter. No comment, he said at a press conference after today's government session.

Klaus reiterated that during his visit in Budapest last week, where he participated in a conference of the European Democratic Union, he received no information about Rushdie's visit to the Czech Republic.

He said that it was useless to continue to speculate on whether Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec should have telephoned or sent a telegram to him in Budapest informing him about Rushdie's visit. Klaus left for Hungary a few hours after his regular Wednesday meeting with Czech President Vaclav Havel. He said that Havel had not informed him about the visit.

Klaus wants to leave it up to other countries to judge for themselves the differing statements made by himself and Havel about Rushdie and his visit to the Czech Republic.

It is not useful to continue to dissect this matter, Klaus said.

Klaus Terms Czech Stance on Sudeten Germans 'Final'*LD0809202393 Prague CTK in English 2007 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Prague, Sept 8 (CTK)—The Czech Republic's position on the Sudeten German problem is clear and final from the point of view of both property restitution claims and the inviolability of the Czech Republic's territory, Premier Vaclav Klaus said today.

He was reacting to questions concerning Friday's statement by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that it was necessary to conduct a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans within the process of European integration, and the weekend statement by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel that the German government supported the claims of the Germans transferred from east European countries.

Klaus said that no German politician could tell his voters a couple of months before elections that he was giving up responsibility for one part of the population. We won't eradicate this with strong words, and we won't even try to, he stressed.

Some 2.5 million Sudeten Germans were expelled from Czechoslovakia after World War Two and their property was expropriated. They now claim restitution of the property and recognition of their right to a homeland.

Speaking about his talks on the necessity of holding a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans, which he held with Kohl in Budapest on Wednesday, Klaus denied that he would have had omitted anything when he informed journalists about them.

He added that Kohl only recommended that all Sudeten German organisations, including the extreme as well as the moderate ones be included in their delegation to the talks with the Czechs.

It is nonsensical to say that I omitted anything like this when I informed (journalists) about my talks with Chancellor Kohl, he stressed.

Removal of Senate 'Not Under Consideration'*LD0809203193 Prague CTK in English 1951 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Prague, Sept 8 (CTK)—The removal of the Senate from the Czech Constitution is not under consideration, said Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus at a press conference today, adding that he himself had proposed nothing of the sort.

In an interview Tuesday for the programme Radiojournal, Klaus said that the senate was not a necessary institution.

At the press conference, Klaus said, I said that the lack of a Senate does not bother me personally. I do not feel that

we would have done anything differently between January 1 and today had we had a Senate, and this is not only my position. I have the feeling that I have not heard any calls for a Senate even in the media.

In the interview, Klaus called the second chamber of parliament unnecessary, and said that as a pragmatist he had looked in vain for some function for it. The Czech Constitution provides for both a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. The Senate has not yet been created. I have not yet heard any comment in the media on the fact that we lack a Senate, or that if there was one, this or that would not have happened. This is very symptomatic and expresses exactly the factual uselessness of this institution, Klaus said.

Minister on Privatization Control, Affairs*AU0809130093 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
1 Sep 93 pp 1, 18*

[Interview with Jiri Skalicky, minister of administration of national property and its privatization, by Vladimir Labuda; place and date not given: "I Am Ready to Face Public Control Any Time"]

[Text] [Labuda] In an interview almost exactly one year ago, upon assuming the post of privatization minister, you replied with a single word—yes—to my question whether it was possible to prevent corruption in the privatization process. Would you stick to the same reply now?

[Skalicky] Yes.

[Labuda] You also said that you considered it one of your main tasks to eliminate factors that might lead to various affairs or to doubts about the privatization process. Do you think that you have been successful in that?

[Skalicky] I would say that, to a considerable extent, I have been successful. I was of the opinion then, and I am of the same opinion today, that it is quite natural that all kinds of methods, including pressure through the media, that is, through public opinion, are used in the battle for lucrative property. It is the sacred right of the media to seek out contentious issues and, by giving them an airing, to secure public control over the activity of state bodies. On the other hand, it is legitimate to view press articles critically because they often are based on one-sided and distorted information or because their aim is to influence decisionmaking in one direction or another. Therefore, what matters most is whether the decision-making itself can, or cannot be, influenced and how transparent it is. I am convinced that we have succeeded in introducing control mechanisms vis-a-vis individual bureaucrats that eliminate doubts about the correctness of the decisionmaking process.

[Labuda] In connection with attempts to use information media to exert pressure, I have heard government officials say that the best thing would be if newspapers did not

meddle in privatization. In that case, the argument goes, everything would be privatized in peace and without problems. What do you think about this argument?

[Skalicky] I definitely do not share it. I consider control mechanisms in all areas to be the key guarantee of the preservation of democracy. The privatization process has internal control mechanisms—represented until recently by the Ministry of State Control and now by the Supreme Inspection Office, and there are prosecuting and police bodies. It is very important, however, that, in addition, the entire government activity be under public control and who else, if not the press, should mediate it? I dare say that I am ready to face such public control any time. On the other hand, I am of the opinion that the public should demand that the media provide good quality information. I do not think it is the intention of the media to distort things but it often happens that journalists catch some information and do not try to verify it, to form a plastic picture, and only then submit their report, which can by all means be critical. As a result, conflicting pieces of information often appear in the press and, above all, information that is far removed from reality. The reader is then bound to gain the impression that the entire privatization process is absolutely nontransparent and, therefore, suspicious.

[Labuda] If the internal mechanisms are working, how is it possible, for example, that six months after you yourself and Minister of Control Nemec, in a reply to a deputy's interpellation, conceded that the law had been violated in the case of the privatization of Salma Hradec Kralove, nothing has happened and the unlawful contracts are still valid?

[Skalicky] That is connected with the speed of the courts' work. Having ascertained and verified the facts, we tried to agree with the owner who unlawfully acquired the property in question on the cancellation of the contract's validity. When we failed, we filed a lawsuit, demanding that the shares be handed out. The court naturally needs some time to consider the case.

[Labuda] It took a good six months before two members of the Presidium of the Land Fund were recalled who, concurrently with discharging this function, were unlawfully involved in privatization themselves. When one parliamentary deputy asked you to check whether other members of the Presidium are not engaged in similar activities, you refused. Why?

[Skalicky] I do not recall the exact wording of that request but the motive of my refusal was not to try to cover officials of the Land Fund. The reason simply was that my ministry does not have, and cannot have, detailed information on their private activities. If we came across a specific case, I would naturally inform deputies and the chairman of the Land Fund Presidium about it.

[Labuda] In other words, do you regard as unrealistic the idea put forward by the Liberal Social Union that the privatization activities of constitutional officials and

high-level government officials be published? Would you endorse this idea if it were technically feasible?

[Skalicky] Ever since the case of the privatization of Knizni Velkoobchod [book wholesale company] by former Federal Deputy Prime Minister Miroslav Macek, I have been saying that an employee of the state administration should not participate in privatization because state property is being disposed of in the process. I stick to this regardless of the specific circumstances and regardless of the assessment of the whole matter by the prosecuting bodies. Mechanisms ought to be found of preventing this and, should such a case occur nonetheless, it should mean quite specific conclusions for the politician in question. Another question is how to go about it. Of course, parliament could turn to government members and other officials and ask them to sign a sworn statement that they do not engage in such activities, but I cannot imagine how I, for example, would prove that this is not the case.

[Labuda] I do not think that a sworn statement would solve the problem. As a matter of fact, those two members of the Land Fund Presidium had signed such a statement last September. The question is whether it is technically feasible to check a certain number of people and to verify whether they unlawfully participate in privatization or not.

[Skalicky] I could, of course, order an inspection, in the course of which those names would be run through all the computer systems to ascertain whether these names figure anywhere. Naturally, that is possible. But it would be nonsense. You are not as naive as to believe that a case would be found of Mr. XY, deputy of Minister Z., having submitted a privatization project. If I wanted to illegally participate in privatization, I would do something completely different. I would not draft a project saying that Jiri Skalicky wants to privatize something but I would ask a friend to set up an inconspicuous limited liability company.... We can come to terms with this problem only through feedback [zpetna kontrola], that is, by asking at the very last moment of decision by the government who, in fact, the people are making up the company that buys the property, who is behind them, and what their sources of finance are. And, once again, we come to the irreplaceable role of the media. It is up to them to find out and say—this or that public official is a partner in this limited liability company—and to ask whether this is in order.

[Labuda] Would you support the opposition's proposal to set up a parliamentary commission for the control of privatization, provided that it is put on the agenda in the first place?

[Skalicky] I do not consider the establishment of such a commission necessary. Parliament avails itself of sufficient means of securing the control of privatization. There is the Supreme Inspection Office and the Chamber of Deputies' Economic Committee, which regularly

deals with privatization issues. The endeavor by the chairman of the Czech Social Democratic Party in this regard is has been around for a long time and is aimed at something other than the declared concern about the regularity of the privatization process.

Ministry Official Views U.S. Loan Prospects

*LD0809123493 Prague CTK in English 1210 GMT
8 Sep 93*

[Text] Prague, Sept 8 (CTK)—The U.S. Congress will soon be deciding on a proposal to lend Czech communities up to 100 million USD to rebuild their housing-related infrastructure over the next five years, announced Pavel Pelant, a top official at the Czech Ministry of Finance, to CTK today.

The most helpful aspects of the loan include a 30-year payback period and the possibility to defer payments up to ten years, he added. The hopeful loan would come in chunks of 20 million USD a year through the international development agency, he said. Czech Minister of Finance Ivan Kocarnik already signed an agreement for the first ten million USD at the end of August. The interest rate will be agreed on in each contract thereafter, consistent to similar loans the U.S. Government offers. For this first agreement, the interest rate would be fixed between eight and nine per cent.

Part of the loan program is the 20-per cent participation by Czech banking institutions in each project's financing. The agreement still has to go through the ratification process, but with the project's almost one year of detailed preparation, both sides are optimistic of success, including the requisite approval by the U.S.

Congress. The first funds should start flowing into the Czech Republic by the beginning of next year, said Pelant.

Czech banking institutions together with the Ceskomoravská Zaruční a Rozvojová Banka (CMZRB) which will serve as the mediator between American banks, investors and banks here, will evaluate and select projects. CMZRB is already the prominent go-between in governmental support programs to small and medium-sized businesses.

Community officials can already begin preparing infrastructure projects related to housing, i.e., those which include renovation to waterpipes, canalization, lighting, etc.

Czech state organs are not to be a part of the approval process which means that city officials must turn directly to banking houses which must contact CMZRB. Communities will also have to guarantee the loans they receive from their own sources. The flow of money itself will be realized through a special investment fund to be established by CMZRB. Instead of providing credit, Czech banks will be able to use funds from the American loans to purchase communities' debentures.

As part of the program, American experts will provide Czech municipal authorities and banks technological assistance in the area of long-term credit policies and evaluation of their risk.

Other gains for Czechs, according to Pelant, include the contacts that will be made between the American and Czech banking worlds.

The United States offers the same kind of loan programs to several countries in the world, including Hungary. The Czech Republic could sign similar agreements with other partners, noted Pelant, of course, after long and difficult negotiation.

Secret Service Chief Denies Anti-Hungarian Policy

AU0809192793 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak
4 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Slovak Information Service Director Vladimir Mitro by a "(vub)"-signed correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [REPUBLIKA] What is your view concerning the statements made by Hungarian National Security Minister Tibor Fuzessy about alleged anti-Hungarian activity being conducted by the secret services of neighboring states?

[Mitro] The Slovak Information Service, as a newly established state body and in accordance with the Law on the Slovak Information Service, is fulfilling its duty to defend the constitutional system, internal order, and the security of the Slovak Republic and—for this purpose—acquires, collates, and analyzes the appropriate information. The Slovak Information Service's strategy is such that no internal or external enemy is determined a priori. This also fully applies to the activities of the Hungarian minority and the other ethnic minorities in the Slovak Republic. It is necessary to emphasize that the Slovak Information Service is an information-gathering body and not a repressive one, and that its information gathering is strictly regulated by law.

CTK Accused of Distorting Meciar Views on Romanies

LD0809165393 Prague CTK in English 1227 GMT
8 Sep 93

[Text] Bratislava, Sept 8 (CTK)—Director of the Slovak Government Press Department Ondrej Hango said September 7 that the Slovak Government intended to lodge a complaint with the general prosecutor office against the Czech News Agency (CTK) for its reporting of Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar's statement on the Romany problem in Spisska Nova Ves, east Slovakia.

Hango yesterday gave CTK a written record of Meciar's address in which the Slovak premier said, among other things, that if we consider the population activity of 'whites' and Romanies then, it is considerably higher. So the prospect is that this ratio will be changing to the benefit of Romanies. That is why if we did not deal with them now then they will deal with us in time...

Hango protested a CTK report on Friday, specifically the words:...extended reproduction of socially unadaptable and mentally backward population.

According to Hango's text of the recorded address, Meciar said: Another thing we ought to take into consideration is an extended reproduction of socially unadaptable population. Several words later he continued: ...Already children are giving birth to children, or grandmothers are giving birth to children—poorly adaptable mentally, badly adaptable socially, with serious health

problems, who are simply a great burden on this society. That is why we are making changes in the system of children's allowances for which the unions criticize us, but we do not see a more just solution...

Hango believes that this copy and the CTK report are diametrically opposed.

Hango said that the CTK Friday report caused a decidedly negative reaction in Slovakia and especially abroad, not only against Meciar, but one that has developed into a campaign against the Slovak Republic from both domestic and foreign mass media, political institutions and public figures.

In a broader context, Meciar's speech stated, according to Hango: ...Another thing which is important for us is the loss of the ability to communicate with Romanies...

Furthermore, we ought to consider the extended reproduction of socially unadaptable population. We simply cannot pursue such family policies, with children's allowances and accent on large families, that support this extended reproduction because it is taking place in a social group where children are already giving birth to children or grandmothers are still giving birth to children—poorly adaptable mentally, badly adaptable socially, with serious health problems who are simply a great burden on this society. That is why we are making changes in the system of children's allowances for which the unions criticize us, but we do not see a more just solution...

On Romanies we must also say that it is necessary to turn them to economically useful activities. Many of them live under catastrophic conditions. The way out is not in moving them into state-owned apartments. The only way out is - to create conditions, so that they build themselves...

They need to be perceived as a problematic group which is growing in number - in your district they make up over 13 per cent of the population. But if we consider the population activity of 'whites' and Romanies then it is considerably higher. So the prospect is that this ratio will be changing to the benefit of Romanies. That is why if we did not deal with them now then they will deal with us in time...

Hango said that the Slovak Government office asks all newspapers who quoted the CTK report to apologise. Otherwise the office will demand an apology through legal means. The office is going to proceed similarly abroad through the Slovak Foreign Ministry and Slovak diplomatic missions, says the Slovak government office statement.

CTK reported on Friday: Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar said today that it is necessary, by lowering family allowances, to achieve a reduction in extended reproduction of socially unadaptable and mentally backward population.

Meciar made this remark here during a discussion on the gravest problems of the Spis region—unemployment, crime and the Romany (Gypsy) question—attended by representatives of the state administration and local authorities of the Spisska Nova Ves region.

President Kovac Assesses Minorities' Demands

AU0809183893 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak
3 Sep 93 p 2

[TA SR report: "There Exists Good Will Toward Minorities"]

[Text] During his meeting with representatives of ethnic minorities and ethnic groups at Bratislava Castle yesterday, Slovak President Michal Kovac confirmed the decision to apply the principle of civic equality in ethnic policy and to support the creation of conditions for all minority members to consider Slovakia their home.

The second roundtable meeting was attended by representatives of the Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, German, Polish, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian minorities, representatives of the Romany ethnic group, and representatives of the Jewish community. Representatives of the Slovak Heritage Foundation were also present.

Michal Kovac said that the establishment of direct contact between the head of state and representatives of ethnic minorities was a positive result of the first roundtable, held on 20 May. The meeting, at which participants expressed their views on the plight of minorities and submitted specific proposals on how to resolve current issues, helped the Slovak president form a comprehensive picture of the problems.

President at the First Meeting

The president said that the Departments of Education, Culture, and Interior have drafted their standpoints on the issues raised at the first roundtable, which were subsequently analyzed by the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic. He said that the data will serve as background material in tackling minority problems within the group of experts operating under the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic and within the pertinent government and legislative bodies.

Representatives of the Hungarian minority, the most numerous in the Slovak Republic, have formulated their demands in the most comprehensive and maximalist way, Michal Kovac said. Regarding the law on names and surnames, he said that the solution proposed in the ruling by the president of the Republic on returning the law for another discussion in parliament was in conformity with both the rights of members of minorities and European standards.

Solution in Line with Council of Europe Recommendations

The status quo concerning the designation of the names of communities is, in the president's opinion, in line

with valid laws of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, particularly with the law on territorial and administrative arrangement and the law on the official language. This problem will soon be tackled legislatively in line with Council of Europe recommendations, particularly in connection with the law, now under preparation, on the territorial arrangement of the state.

Referring to protests by Hungarian minority representatives against the proposed so-called alternative way of teaching [in Slovak or Hungarian, depending on the parents' choice], which would supposedly endanger ethnic Hungarian schools, the president said that the existing rights in this regard remain unimpaired. The new proposals do not disrupt the existing system of ethnic Hungarian schools, quite the contrary, they expand the possibilities by additional forms of instruction.

Commenting on demands for the abolition of some Benes' decrees and Slovak National Council laws associated with the outcome of World War II, he said that wrongs inflicted upon innocent members of the Hungarian and German minorities started being redressed in the 40's and more wrongs are gradually being redressed. The latest measure of this kind concerned the restitution of farm land where the otherwise strictly observed limit of 25 February has been exceeded. Speaking about the government's proposal for the territorial and administrative arrangement of the Slovak Republic, he said that the adoption of narrow ethnic criteria in the creation of regions would be, above all, to the detriment of their citizens.

Support for Legitimate Demands

Michal Kovac, president of the Slovak Republic, assured the participants in the roundtable that he would continue supporting the legitimate demands of ethnic minorities and ethnic groups. He stated that there exists good will to meet them in conformity with European standards. Some demands, however, are connected with material and financial requirements, and others need time. This requires patience and sense for the political reality from everyone, including members of minorities. Generating an atmosphere of distrust and the creation of stress and nervousness do not contribute toward improving relations within the state, and in fact delay the solution to problems. In concluding he emphasized that he expected ethnic minority representatives, apart from formulating demands, to engage in activities expressing loyalty to the common homeland and assistance in its general development.

Minorities—Bridge Toward Cooperation

Michal Kovac also addressed some specific individual ethnic minorities proposals and demands.

He appreciated the initiative by some representatives stating that the minorities living in Slovakia serve as a bridge in promoting cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the motherland.

Responding to the sole demand raised by the Polish minority, the possibility of acquiring dual citizenship, he expressed the hope that the relevant ministry would express its opinion.

As regards Czech citizens living in Slovakia, he assured them that he would use his influence to ensure they are not discriminated against.

The state will also support the development of Jewish religious communities in Slovakia.

Specific Phenomenon of Ethnic Structure

Regarding Ukrainians and Ruthenians, Michal Kovac said that they represent a unique phenomenon in the Slovak Republic's ethnic structure. In the period of totalitarianism, Ruthenians did not exist as an ethnic minority under the law and only after its fall did they seize the opportunity to obtain ethnic minority status.

As for the problems of Romanies, the president is of the opinion that one should consider the participation by government institutions in organizing an international seminar on how to resolve the Romany issue.

Commission of Experts

The outcome of the president's second meeting with representatives of ten ethnic minorities and ethnic groups living in Slovakia is a decision to set up a commission of experts composed of 10 appointed experts and representatives of the minorities. This was announced by Jan Findra, head of the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, at a news conference after the roundtable talks.

He said that over the next three months the commission would analyze the two roundtable meetings' results.

Jan Findra appreciated the fact that yesterday's talks were businesslike, even though expressive [expresivne] tones could also occasionally be heard. The important thing, he said, is that there is readiness on the part of both the state and the minorities to cooperate and understand the other side.

There was unequivocal agreement at the meeting that problems concerning Slovakia, including those concerning minorities, should be solved at home. There can be foreign comment, but the crucial thing is our ability to come to an agreement on domestic soil.

Chief Rabbi Assaulted, KDH Expresses Dismay

*AU0809131593 Prague CTK in English 1945 GMT
6 Sep 93*

[Text] Bratislava, Sep 6 (CTK)—The Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) today expressed its dismay over yesterday's assault on Slovakia's chief rabbi, but said it was convinced the attack was an isolated incident and that Slovakia was not fertile soil for anti-Semitism.

Rabbi Baruch Meyers was jumped and beaten Sunday [5 September] by two youths in the area of Stary Most. An Interior Ministry spokesman said Meyers did not report the assault, but gave details to police officers who visited him later.

In its statement, the KDH said it considered the fomenting of hatred against any group very dangerous, and for this reason is calling upon the Slovak Government to exert itself to the utmost, in the interest of preserving Slovakia's good name, in investigating the attack.

Meyers, a United States citizen, moved to Slovakia in the spring of this year to become the country's first chief rabbi in 25 years and the first rabbi at all in the independent Slovak Republic.

Q Ambassador's Recall Linked To Criticism of Meciar

93P20328A

[Editorial Report] On 24 August, Slovak media reported that Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar had asked his government to dismiss Slovak Ambassador to Austria Rudolf Filkus, citing Filkus's "multiple disloyal activities toward Slovakia's Government." [Prague CTK in English] The government unanimously approved Meciar's recommendation.

The Bratislava daily SME of 25 August described Filkus as "surprised" by the action, quoting him as saying that he had always tried to establish "Slovakia's good name" in Austria and that his recent interviews in the Bratislava dailies PRAVDA and NARODNA OBRODA, in which he expressed negative views of the Slovak political and economic situation, were only his "interpretation of opinions expressed by Austrian parliamentary deputies and the Austrian press on economic and political developments in Slovakia." SME noted that Slovak President Milan Kovac had not yet approved Filkus's dismissal.

The same issue of SME carried an editorial that recalled that, shortly after Slovakia became independent, two prominent Movement for Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] leaders, Milan Knazko, then minister of foreign affairs, and Filkus, former deputy prime minister of the federal government, had "dared" to express independent opinions and "stand up to the Slovak prime minister." SME asserted that "many of us—because our daily was among the critics—were annoyed by Rudolf Filkus's rapid retreat from the field of battle and his preference for a diplomatic post in Vienna." But, continued the editorial, "Meciar never forgets and absolutely never forgives." He bought Filkus off for the time being, but now he has "used the first opportunity to strike him down." SME added that the government's unanimous vote on Filkus's dismissal "testifies that the ministers are aware of the Slovak prime minister's excellent memory and his unwillingness to forgive."

A 26 August editorial in the Czech daily Prague LIDOVE NOVINY commented that Filkus "behaved like a politician, not a diplomat" when he criticized Slovak policy in his post as ambassador. However, said the editorial, "this was not the real reason for his recall, the real reason was his long-held critical view of the policy of the HZDS leadership and that of the party's chairman, Vladimir Meciar."

In the same issue, LIDOVE NOVINY published an interview with Frantisek Miklosko, deputy chairman of a major opposition party, the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH]. Miklosko speculated that the Filkus affair is part of a larger plan being orchestrated by Meciar, "because I see Filkus's recall also as an attack on the [Slovak] president [Milan Kovac] himself." The fact that the media learned about the recall while the president was considering the matter "was no random indiscretion. The information was leaked intentionally. It is an old Meciar method of stirring things up."

At a 1 September HZDS rally in Bratislava, as reported by Prague CTK of that date, Meciar attacked Filkus for

"blackening the name of Slovakia in Austria," insisting that the ambassador must be dismissed. He also directly challenged the Slovak president on the matter, saying that Kovac could either "support the government" by recalling Filkus or could choose "not to support it" by retaining the ambassador.

As quoted in the 26 August LIDOVE NOVINY, Miklosko expressed the view that Meciar, in removing his enemies one by one and becoming ever more isolated, "will either fall shortly" or "will openly adopt some type of authoritarian way of governing." According to Miklosko's scenario: "Meciar will establish a minority government, not very functional, that, however, no one will be interested in overturning because the opposition would be incapable of setting up a government. But laws proposed by Meciar and the HZDS will not pass in parliament, and different laws—not proposed by his government—will be adopted. The government will thus get into a blind alley, and Meciar will have to start bypassing the parliament. Instead of trying to pass laws, he will start governing by decree. That will lead to an ever-greater increase in his personal power."

Possible Purchase of Swedish Fighters Foreseen

LD0809220793 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerptts] The Hungarian Army has invariably been looking for fighter planes of western manufacture, it emerges from the Hungarian defense minister's talks in Sweden. However, Lajos Fur is only expecting specific steps some years hence. Peter Marvanyi, who has been on the scene of the talks, reports.

[Marvanyi] The Wednesday issue of the respected Swedish daily SVENSKA DAGBLADET dealt on its front page with Lajos Fur's visit and interpreted the talks the following way, I quote: Sweden is to start defense cooperation with Hungary, hoping that it can sell JAS planes, that is to say, fighter planes of Swedish make.

It has to be added that although Lajos Fur also visited an air base, he and his party were shown not the latest Gripen model but the Viggen, which has been flying for more than 20 years. The essence of the demonstration was not about the purchase of some kind of new plane either, but an introduction to the Swedish air defense system, which is unique in the world. [passage omitted]

However, the Hungarian defense minister has not excluded the possibility of purchasing Gripens in the distant future. He had the following to say about this on landing at Toekoe airport on his return:

[Begin recording] We have agreed that we will carry out an experts' examination in the foreseeable future in order to find out what type of aircraft should replace the MiG-21 and MiG-23 aircraft, which will become worn out within one or two years, by the government of that time, when Hungary will have the material resources, when the Hungarian Army will have appropriate resources. We do not make a secret of the fact that we would like to introduce western technology, and western fighter planes as well in the Hungarian Air Force and, in addition to the MiG-29 aircraft, to thus strengthen, or even expand the Hungarian Air Force. [end recording]

[Announcer] According to the Vienna agreement, Hungary can bring into service 40 new planes in addition to the 28 Russian MiG-29s.

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses NATO Summit

AU0809192893 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 7 Sep 93 pp 1,3

[Interview with Istvan Gyarmati, head of the Security Policy Department of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, by Lajos Pietsch; place and date not given: "NATO Membership Is a Strategic Goal"]

[Text] MAGYAR NEMZET asked Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati, head of the Security Policy Department of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, about Hungary's relations with NATO.

[Pietsch] How do you explain the tremendous acceleration of events related to Hungary's possible NATO membership? Does Hungary's changed security policy situation justify all this, or has the focus of Hungarian foreign policy changed?

[Gyarmati] Two external events justify this acceleration. One is that, following a U.S. proposal, a NATO summit will be held soon, with the aim of determining the member countries' ideas about the future of the organization. Obviously, in the course of this summit, they cannot and do not want to avoid the issue of an enlargement of NATO. The other external event, and one that preceded all this, is the well-known Yeltsin statement, which made it clear that the most progressive forces in Russian politics do not oppose the Eastern and Central European countries joining NATO.

As a result, we realized that this is a historical situation in which we must clearly say what we want. Our strategic goal is to achieve full NATO membership and, until then, we would also like to join in with every common activity. People always mention the AWACS [airborne warning and control system] aircraft here, but, in addition, serious cooperation is emerging in the area of peacekeeping too. It was a Hungarian initiative to examine interim solutions, such as the possibility of associate membership.

[Pietsch] Does that mean that the proposal submitted by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall last week on Hungary's three-stage NATO membership is now the official program of the Hungarian Government and of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry?

[Gyarmati] This is clear. Besides, all the prime minister said was simply a clarification of the policy that we have been following so far. Obviously, joining a military and political organization must be preceded by some kind of acquaintance and political cooperation. Obviously, membership is connected to political, legal, and organizational decisions, and concrete cooperation will emerge from all this.

[Pietsch] What is the current state of our cooperation with NATO and, starting from this three-stage plan, what can we count on at the NATO summit in January?

[Gyarmati] We can best characterize the current situation by saying that close political cooperation has emerged, a practically constant dialogue; we have some degree of organizational cooperation, and certain military cooperation is currently emerging with NATO members in the area of peacekeeping. We expect the summit to formulate a clear position about two things, namely the future of NATO and, in connection with this, the possible enlargement of the organization. Obviously, this will not take place by simultaneously accepting everyone who desires this. I think the summit will be able to determine certain criteria, in addition to the decision on principle, namely the conditions the new members have to fulfill in order to become NATO members. The summit will probably examine whether

there is a need for interim solutions, such as the creation of an associate membership.

[Pietsch] What can we expect in the short term? In what areas could our relations become stronger after the summit?

[Gyarmati] I am not pessimistic regarding the creation of the organizational framework either. However, if the NATO summit only declared that they would accept the Eastern European countries sometime in the future, I think this would cause disappointment in Central Europe, including Hungary. NATO should go further than that, for example by creating interim solutions or by initiating concrete dialogue with these countries on the timing and conditions of joining NATO. The most important thing is to develop a constant consultation system between NATO and Hungary. Closer military cooperation could be the next step, in the area of peacekeeping and in other related areas, like training, joint military maneuvers, and the relevant joint plans on how to react to various crises. There are also possibilities

of progress in the area of humanitarian aid and dealing with the refugee problem, including the security policy aspects of this problem.

[Pietsch] What is the opinion of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry about the idea that the Visegrad Group should join NATO together, including Slovakia, as the prime minister mentioned?

[Gyarmati] Jozsef Antall did not stress this by accident, because both NATO and Hungary are interested in seeing that these four countries that make up a contiguous geographical region should become NATO members simultaneously if possible. By this, the security and stability of NATO would become stronger. This is also in our interest because our integration with NATO will be much smoother if we have a land connection with the current NATO member countries, and also because we are convinced that we could solve our existing problems with Slovakia in a much more civilized way if both countries were NATO members. Hungary is interested in the simultaneous NATO membership of these four countries, because this can be a guarantee that Slovakia, with which Hungary is striving for the best possible neighborly relations, is also a partner in these efforts.

Former Interior Minister Macierewicz Indicted

LD0809142793 Warsaw PAP in English 1420 GMT
8 Sep 93

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 8—The Warsaw provincial prosecutor's office has filed with the court an indictment against former minister of internal affairs in the Olszewski government Antoni Macierewicz who is accused of revealing state secrets vital to state security, while conveying a list of persons who allegedly had been secret collaborators of the former secret services (UB and SB) to senior Sejm (lower house) deputies on June 4, 1992, sources at the prosecutor's office said on Wednesday [8 September].

According to the prosecutor's office, Macierewicz changed the secrecy clause of the related Interior Ministry's archive materials from "secret of special importance" to "secret" before conveying "the list of secret collaborators" to the Sejm, and thus violated regulations concerning the marking of documents.

According to Macierewicz, secret files prepared before May 10, 1990, the date of the formal dissolution of the SB, should not be treated as "secret of special importance". He claims all documents have been marked properly.

On June 4 of last year, Macierewicz, implementing the vetting resolution passed by the Sejm on May 28, conveyed to senior Sejm deputies a list of 64 deputies, senators, ministers and high officials at the presidential chancellery who had allegedly collaborated with the UB and SB. The move aggravated the continuing political crisis and resulted in the no-confidence vote in the Olszewski government. Several weeks later the constitutional tribunal recognized that the vetting resolution was lawless.

An investigation in the Macierewicz case has been conducted since July of last year. Macierewicz's defence lawyer has filed a motion for the termination of proceedings claiming his client is only subject to responsibility before the tribunal of state.

Oleksy, Geremek Debate Communist Past, Economy

WS0809121093

[Editorial Report] Warsaw Radio Zet in Polish at 11:00 GMT on 31 August carries a live "Duel in Radio Zet" program. In this edition which lasts about 80 minutes (including commercial breaks), Jozef Oleksy of SLD (Democratic Left Alliance) and Bronislaw Geremek of UD (Democratic Union) confront each other in the studio. The program is moderated by Andrzej Woyciechowski of Radio Zet and takes place with a live audience, both in the studio and on the street from where a radio car periodically provides reports.

The program begins with an introduction of the guests, followed by a report from the radio car on Plac Konstytucji, where supporters of both political parties gathered. Short biographies of the guests follow, after which Woyciechowski notes the first difference between the guests: Geremek used to be imprisoned whereas Oleksy was not. Oleksy responds by saying that they were "in different places of history in progress," he admits having been a member of PZPR (Polish United Workers Party), and says: "I was not behind bars because we did not imprison our own men at the time." Geremek then says that the duel should be "manly," and describes a past conversation in the same studio where Oleksy was critical of Jan Krzysztof Bielecki describing him as "lacking national feeling." Geremek raises the issue of the PZPR having promoted foreign interests in Poland. Oleksy defends his statement on Bielecki by saying Geremek misinterpreted it, and says: "When criticism of current politics is made, very often that discussion is not initiated, like Professor Geremek is not doing now. For instance, regarding the topic of whether Polish economic interests are indeed strategically secured within the EEC Treaty, which we in the SLD were in favor of and voted for, but then speakers always reason and criticize along the lines you are doing: you were traitors, servants in the past. That is the wrong tone for a discussion. We will not suffer from historical amnesia, professor, even though some on the left perhaps would like that, but I think that the program is defined sufficiently and historical amnesia is not a threat to the left, because it is precisely the left that should remember about past mistakes and about what must not be repeated from the past." When Woyciechowski asks Geremek what kind of resentment he has toward Oleksy, Geremek says he respects the voters' will and admits that SLD has public support, but he points to the fact that SLD always says "let us not look back," but does not define its identity enough. He says democracy does not tolerate lack of identity, and he points to some historical examples like Lenin's New Economic Policy where economic liberalism prevailed temporarily. When Woyciechowski asks whether SdRP (Social Democracy of the Polish Republic) has managed to break with the past with determination, Oleksy admits it is an important question and says that every political party proves its intentions by its actions, not its slogans. He says the SLD had broken with the totalitarian past, but that does not mean that 40 years in the nation's history should be erased, because during those 40 years there were many achievements in different areas. Geremek reacts by describing Oleksy's statement that 40 years of history should not be erased, as "repeating hackneyed truths," and accuses Oleksy's party of returning to the communist past by, among others, wanting to protect the memory of the security officials who died in order for the People's Republic of Poland to exist. Oleksy defends himself by saying that Geremek happened to quote isolated excerpts; he also partly blames the press for "using its liberty exceptionally well." Oleksy accuses Geremek of amateurship in his attacks while Geremek continues to say that Oleksy's party still has not settled accounts in terms of the past. Oleksy says nobody has the

right to demand that someone change his or her views, he demands tolerance for others' views, but on the other hand he says that SLD candidates must have a "common view of history." Geremek then asks whether Oleksy shares Leszek Miller's statement that SLD is "the Ark of the Covenant" between the old and new times. Oleksy says he does not really like the comparison. When Geremek directly asks Oleksy whether his party continues the PZPR policy, Oleksy answers in the negative but says his party has "roots based on human experiences" in the PZPR. He says: "We did not dissolve the PZPR just to be its straightforward continuator." He asks for an objective approach and reminds Geremek that the Balcerowicz economic plan was accepted thanks to a leftist deputies club in the Sejm. Oleksy also says that there are different participants on the political scene who claim to have won freedom but currently "perform quite ambiguous functions" with regard to what needs to be done in the country.

A report from the radio car on Plac Konstytucji follows during which a reporter cites some political slogans from banners erected there. A listener question for Oleksy deals with the murder of 197 people in June 1945, and whether he regards the children and old men killed at the time as "bandits." After a commercial break, the guests are reintroduced, after which Oleksy answers the question by saying that he was not yet born at the time and that often historical facts are distorted.

Results of a street poll follow, giving only positive statements about the guests, after which another poll is presented, with only negative statements. Woyciechowski then asks a question about whether SLD will win the elections, or who will win. Geremek says he is glad that Oleksy regards the Balcerowicz plan and privatization as positive phenomena, but then he accuses SLD of trying to bring down the Suchocka government in order to seize power. Geremek quotes Oleksy from his interview for GAZETA WYBORCZA where Oleksy allegedly said "We will not be our voters' slaves," and asks whether SLD is only after power and will forget the voters after the elections. Geremek says that taking over power amounts to a societal vote of confidence, and says that SLD is not worthy of the confidence. Woyciechowski then rephrases the question about whether SLD takes into account the possibility that it may get the biggest number of votes and that, in accordance with Walesa's promise, that as the winning party it will select a prime minister from its ranks. Oleksy accuses Geremek of imprecise quotations and says that the interview for GAZETA WYBORCZA did not include the word "slave" but "hostage" and says it makes a big difference. Oleksy refutes Geremek's accusation that SLD exploits people's poverty, but agrees with Geremek that taking over power amounts to a vote of confidence by society. Oleksy says the confidence given by society in 1989 was wasted although he says SLD does not completely erase the legacy of the last four years. When Woyciechowski repeats the question about whether SLD "wants power" and whether it takes into account the possibility that a

prime minister will be selected from among its members, Oleksy says he does not want to "speculate" on the future, but he also says SLD does not hide the fact that they want to have power because that is "included in the very logic of political action." Woyciechowski then asks Geremek whether he would agree to take the post of foreign minister if Oleksy became the prime minister. Geremek says he would refuse, although Oleksy says he would propose the post "with pleasure." Then Geremek tries to question SLD's concern with poverty, and accuses Oleksy of lying because the current poverty should be attributed to the PZPR and its continuators. Geremek also points to even greater poverty in countries surrounding Poland. Oleksy then denies SLD's "killing hope" among people, and says that different post-communist countries went through different changes, and he disagrees with the statement that Poland is the best off in Central Europe.

After a newsbreak, Woyciechowski reintroduces the guests and presents listeners' questions. The first question concerns the recent Concordat with the Holy See. Geremek protests against using the Concordat for political purposes, and he defends the document in essence. A question for Oleksy then concerns the issue of whether the "way of governing" will be different from that of the PZPR in the past. Oleksy answers in the negative. There are two more questions for the guests: does Oleksy lie often (he says: "I despise lying enormously"), and did the weekly NIE write about Geremek.

Studio debate then resumes during which participants try to identify some common areas between UD and SLD. Oleksy says those common areas include: the approach to democracy, ways of implementing democracy, the approach to civic rights, to Poland's integration with Europe, the attitude on church-state relations, the state's lay character, whereas the main division between the parties lies in the economic program. Geremek says that often these issues amount only to lip service. For instance, on European and NATO integration, Geremek says UD says "yes" whereas SLD changes its mind all the time. On NATO and the Polish membership in it, Oleksy says: "We are not against Poland's efforts to gain entry into NATO, because like others, we view critically a situation where Poland is without defense alliance treaties." And then he adds: "We first want to get answers to some questions that are significant for us. We are in favor of Poland's entry into NATO but not on any terms. Namely, we do not have an answer to the question about how the essence of NATO will or should change. Enormous changes occurred in Europe while NATO's essence has remained the same." "It is a defense-military treaty which was created in a certain historical situation that has changed today. Second, we do not know, and no one is willing to tell us, what will be the strategy of NATO toward the East, to which we are close. If Poland is to enter NATO, we would like to know what that will mean strategically speaking. I repeat we do not reject Poland's entry into NATO." Geremek then denies Russia is anxious over Polish entry into NATO. Geremek says it is

not the case that only SLD wants to defend the poor. He says the legacy of the past must be eliminated first in order for SLD to gain credibility.

Prerecorded statements follow then and the guests are asked to identify the speakers. Geremek manages to identify Krzysztof Krol of the Confederation for an Independent Poland. Oleksy fails to identify Romuald Szeremietiew's voice. Comments from a listener follow after which Oleksy comments on SLD's profile: "...SLD absolutely thinks that democracy's victory is a big achievement because thanks to that, I can take part in this free political debate with Professor Geremek." Geremek then accuses Oleksy of continuing the PZPR policies, to which Oleksy protests. Oleksy fears that the SLD victory will be interpreted selectively by the current elites who will then cease to think highly of democracy. Geremek says those fears are unjustified because "respect for democratic order is secured."

The program concludes at 1230 GMT. No further processing planned.

Suchocka to Examine Gdansk Security Chief's Dismissal

AU0909104993 Warsaw PAP in English 1738 GMT
8 Sep 93

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 8—Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka has asked Interior Minister Andrzej Milczanowski to examine circumstances in which the head of the Gdansk section of the State Protection Office (UOP) Adam Hodysz was dismissed, director of the Government Press Bureau Krzysztof Nowak said today, adding that the reply is requested urgently.

Adam Hodysz was dismissed last week by UOP head Jerzy Konieczny who did not substantiate his decision.

The move was strongly opposed by activists of the former opposition movement in Gdansk Bogdan Borusewicz, Aleksander Hall and Jacek Taylor.

In 1978, being a functionary of the communist security service (SB), Hodysz started to cooperate with opposition activists and until 1984 provided them with valuable information on the SB's activities against the opposition movement. In 1984 he was sentenced to six years of imprisonment and released after four years. In 1990 he was appointed head of Gdansk section of the UOP.

Hodysz said that he can not publicly comment on the decision of his superior. He added that during the three years of his work no complaints concerning his activities were made. So I thought that I can slowly introduce changes which, in my opinion, were just, he said. Upon his dismissal, Hodysz has received a proposal to work in UOP headquarters in Warsaw but declined the offer.

Deputy Premier Says Arms Industry Competitive

AU0909104593 Warsaw PAP in English 2104 GMT
8 Sep 93

[Text] Kielce, Sept. 8—Deputy Prime Minister Pawel Laczowski said that the Polish arms industry enterprises have mastered highly advanced military technology which does not only serve to enhance the Polish defensive potential, but also stimulates progress in the civilian branches of industry.

Laczowski attended the closing ceremony of the international defence industry exhibition held in Kielce, central Poland.

The exhibition has demonstrated that the Polish arms industry is able to compete on international markets, the deputy prime minister said. In his opinion the presence of foreign exhibitors at the showroom testifies to their respect for Polish achievements and is a sign of "advanced cooperation."

Melescanu: 'Real Chances' for CE Admission*AU0809192693 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian
4-5 Sep 93 pp 1, 2*

[Interview with Teodor Melescanu, minister of foreign affairs, by Dumitru Tinu, place and date not given: "The Realities Here and the Illusions From Abroad"]

[Text] [Tinu] Mr. Minister, last Thursday [2 September], in Paris, Romania was only a step away from missing the Council of Europe boat. What would have been the implications of the postponement of discussing the Jansson report on Romania's admittance?

[Melescanu] It would have had two very serious consequences. First, it would have meant that this body's opinion about developments in Romania continues to be far removed from actual reality. Because, as Mrs. Lalumiere [general secretary of the Council of Europe] emphasized, nobody can contest the progress made of late in our country. Second, there is the risk that such a postponement might provoke a negative reaction in the Romanian society and a trend in favor of rejecting the very idea of integration in European structures.

[Tinu] More precisely, it would have fueled the arguments of the nationalist and extremist forces, which would have fully profited from such a development.

[Melescanu] Indeed, this would have placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania [UDMR] and of the Hungarian minority, which, in my opinion, should not be totally identified with the party representing it. This burden would have constituted a liability for its future participation in our political life.

[Tinu] From the strict viewpoint of the timetable for Romania's admittance to the Council of Europe, would we have still had a chance?

[Melescanu] We would have lost an extremely important moment with regard to our theoretical chances of admittance until the Vienna summit.

[Tinu] I understand—from the letter you sent to Mrs. Lalumiere—that you were taken by surprise by the UDMR memorandum, in view of the fact that, during the meetings with the general secretary of the Council of Europe, all opposition parties, including the UDMR, supported Romania's admittance. Do you have something to add to what you said in the letter to Mrs. Lalumiere?

[Melescanu] Yes, I would like to make reference to the mentality still extant in our society, which is—instead of conducting a dialogue with the political forces in the country and striving to jointly look for solutions at home—one prefers to nurture the futile hope that somebody from abroad might resolve existing problems.

[Tinu] In the middle of September, you will meet with Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Jeszenszky. Will you

openly broach the issue of Budapest's attitude during the Council of Europe's Strasbourg session? Do you hope that your colleague will adopt a positive attitude in this matter?

[Melescanu] Of course, we will also tackle this issue most openly in our talks. I will tell Mr. Jeszenszky that Hungary's vote on the issue of the recommendation that Romania be admitted to the Council of Europe will be viewed by the Romanian Government as a true test of the sincerity of his goodwill declarations and of the desire to develop normal cooperative relations with Romania.

[Tinu] Would you risk a prediction on our chances of admittance next fall?

[Melescanu] As emphasized during the talks with Mrs. Lalumiere, the procedural and material conditions for Romania's admittance to the Council of Europe next fall are intact. Therefore, I believe there are real chances in this respect, barring an exceptional situation, such as some major mishap in our domestic political life.

[Tinu] I suggest that we resume our discussion after Strasbourg, because I know that you see our joining the Council of Europe as a first step, since our adjustment to the European standards in the sphere of democratization and human rights involves much more than that.

[Melescanu] I said it on another occasion, too: Our admittance to the Council of Europe primarily means that Romania and the Romanian Government must assume certain additional obligations. We are talking here about the start of a long-term process. The difficulties will begin only afterward, since we are talking here about our adjustment to the Council of Europe standards, which are very high indeed.

PUNR Suggests Setting Up Four New Ministries*AU0809192593 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian
3 Sep 93 p 3*

[Report by Petre Stragher: "PUNR Wants the Ministries of Reform"]

[Text] The party of Mr. Funar [Gheorghe Funar, president of the Romanian National Unity Party-PUNR] believes that the recent parliamentary session on corruption was useless and that only the courts can establish the truth.

"The allegation that PUNR was involved in corruption is irresponsible," Mr. Ioan Gavra, the party's vice president said, expressing his party's dissatisfaction with the fact that it had not been consulted on the matter of the cabinet reshuffle, since it is the main supporter of the government party. However, time was not wasted in vain and, as of yesterday [2 September], PUNR has started talks with Prime Minister Vacaroiu and the Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR] on the governing program.

PUNR suggests the setting up of four new ministries: the Ministry of Economic Restructuring and Privatization; the Ministry of Resources and Energy (designed to eliminate the Romanian National Electricity Network Corporation-RENEL); the Ministry of Information (for projecting Romania's image); and the Ministry of Inter-Romanian Relations (for promoting relations with the Republic of Moldova and more). Until the end of September, PUNR wants to hold the "ministries of reform," (as Ioan Gavra said); in case his claims are not met, he wants to abandon the PUNR support for the ruling party.

In connection with the letters recently sent by the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania [UDMR] abroad asking that Romania should not be admitted to the Council of Europe, Gavra said that UDMR is an anti-Romanian group, which should not be taken for the Hungarian population in our country. It is trying to raise obstacles to Romania's admittance to the European structures. The PUNR leaders also expressed concern over the intention to place a life-size statue of Bela Bartok [modern classic Hungarian composer] in Sannicolau Mare, in front of a bust of Mihai Eminescu [classic Romanian poet], which would be tantamount to ridiculing our national poet.

Melescanu, PRC Foreign Minister Begin Talks

AU0809181993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1726
GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 8/9/1993—The Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu had a first round of talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen on September 8. The head of the Romanian diplomacy assured his guest that "the Romanian Government attaches special political importance to the visit the Chinese foreign minister is paying in Romania."

The guest was going to be received by Romanian President Ion Iliescu on Wednesday night [8 September].

Foreign Minister Qichen, who is also deputy prime minister of China, started on September 6 a tour in five East European countries, namely Ukraine, Romania, Albania, Slovenia and Croatia. He stated before this tour that his visit was intended "to boost China's bilateral ties with all these countries and to offer an opportunity for discussions on regional and international issues."

Iliescu To Seek Stronger Ties in Visit to Turkey

TA0709140693 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1005
GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Bucharest, Sept 6 (AA)—Romanian President Ion Iliescu said on Monday that he attached importance to his official visit to Turkey which is planned to commence on September 9 and which he hopes will strengthen the links between the two countries.

Iliescu, speaking to a group of Turkish reporters, said during the visit he will look for ways to improve bilateral relations between the two countries.

Iliescu said he will discuss ways to improve projects within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, of which Turkey and Romania are both members.

Commenting on the Bosnian crisis, Iliescu said a peaceful solution could be found to the conflict but that a military intervention would seriously harm the Bosnian people.

Iliescu warned that the conflict could spread to other parts of the Balkans because of the economic crisis in the Balkan countries.

**Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 9
September**

WA0909171993

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian Serb leaders discussing peace plan behind closed doors ... Bosnian Government urges UN to assume control of vital installations, resources ... Croatian deputy prime minister demands changes in UNPROFOR mandate ... War-crime commission visiting Pale ... Hepatitis epidemic spreading through Sarajevo ... Muslims, Croats exchange accusations of civilian casualties in central Bosnia.

DIPLOMATIC

BOSNIAN SERB LEADERS DISCUSSING PEACE PLAN: Belgrade Radio reports deputies considering further participation in negotiations following Muslim rejection of peace plan. (AU0909083193)

BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT URGING UN CONTROL OF VITAL INSTALLATIONS: Sarajevo Radio reports on Bosnian Government letter to world leaders seeking UN protection of vital installations, resources in Bosnia, where residents are "threatened by a catastrophe of

enormous dimensions." "Full" UN control over transportation, distribution, water, power, and gas sought. (AU0809201793)

GRANIC DEMANDS CHANGES IN UNPROFOR MANDATE: Zagreb Radio reports that Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said current UNPROFOR mandate, due to expire 30 September, "should be strengthened, or their mission should be canceled due to their ineffectiveness." (LD0809160393)

HUMANITARIAN

WAR-CRIME COMMISSION VISITS PALE: TANJUG reports International War Crime Commission investigating "massacres" of Serbs in eastern Bosnia. Commission seeking information from all three warring sides; information received thus far of "varying quality," according to commission member. (LD080922293)

HEPATITIS EPIDEMIC IN SARAJEVO: Zagreb Radio reports official announcement of hepatitis "epidemic" spreading through Sarajevo due to "appalling hygienic conditions." (LD0809122493)

MILITARY

MUSLIMS, CROATS TRADE ACCUSATIONS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES: Sarajevo Radio reports nine Muslims dead, 40 wounded in Croatian attack on Mostar; "around 300" expelled. Zagreb Radio, meanwhile, is reporting heavy civilian casualties from Muslim attacks in central Bosnia. (LD0809123793)

Serb Assembly Session Expected To Discuss Peace Plan

AU0909083193 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The People's Assembly of the Serbian Republic [of Bosnia-Herzegovina] is meeting on Mount Jahorina today. The assembly will discuss internal policies and topical political issues behind closed doors. The deputies are expected to adopt some kind of directives for the further participation of the Serbian delegation in the continuation of the Geneva negotiations, considering the changed circumstances following the Muslims' refusal to accept the peace package that had been offered.

Government Urges UN Control of Sarajevo Installations

AU0809201793 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government today sent a letter to the UN Security Council, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] Sadako Ogata, EC Chairman, U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and UN Protection Force Command. The letter says:

Winter in Sarajevo will begin in 40 to 60 days when the air temperature will drop to zero degrees centigrade and soon afterward to 15 to 20 degrees below zero. There are nearly 360,000 residents living in the town in almost 85,000 houses and homes, of which more than 80 percent are damaged or completely destroyed. Gas, electricity, and water facilities are also damaged and destroyed.

Bearing in mind the residents' physical condition due to prolonged malnutrition, it is clear that the residents of Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina are threatened by a catastrophe of enormous dimensions. The consequences of the energy shortage could be more grave than the consequences of the shortage of food. The only safe way for the population to survive is to secure minimal quantities of electricity, gas, coal, logs, and water for which the objective conditions exist.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government demands that UN forces take full control over transportation and distribution, by controlling all the most vital installations, fresh water sources, power transformers, and gas stations. Most of these installations are currently controlled by the aggressor. It is also demanded that a continuous supply of gas be secured by the Russian Federation and that the Sarajevo-Konjic, Sarajevo-Zenica, and Sarajevo-Tuzla roads be immediately opened for unhindered transport of coal and logs, not only for the UNHCR vehicles but for all vehicles engaged in this activity.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government demands that fuel to generate electricity and produce and transport coal and logs be secured, for which minimal financial

resources also need to be secured. They also demand securing of a complete cease-fire.

We warn, the letter by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government further states, that even in the event of a normal supply of electricity and gas to Sarajevo, at least 40 percent of residents will not be able to resolve the energy problem without being provided coal and firewood. The conditions for their purchase must, therefore, be considered a priority task.

We are convinced that all these problems could be resolved quickly and efficiently with the strength of the authority that you possess, and that is why we ask you once again to use all available means to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe that Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina are facing.

We assure you that there is no time left for these actions, states the end of the letter by Bosnia-Herzegovina Government.

U.S. Envoy Visits Herceg-Bosna Republic

LD0809154393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report from Medjugorje by Zdenko Vranjes]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Victor Jackovich has been in Herceg-Bosna for two days now. He has already had several rounds of talks with the most responsible officials of the Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna who adopted a decision yesterday to release a large group of POW's. Their release from the prisons of Rodoc near Mostar and [name indistinct] near Capljina which foreign journalists and Red Cross officials visited yesterday is expected today.

In addition to this topic, Ambassador Jackovich had talks on the maps. He said that Neum was discussed, among other matters. Asked to make a more specific statement regarding the U.S. stance toward a Muslim demand to gain access to the sea, the ambassador said:

[begin Jackovich recording, in Serbo-Croatian] I could not speak in more specific terms now, of course, you understand the stance of the U.S. government. Our principled standpoint is that any agreement reached through negotiations must be an agreement, a solution, that will satisfy all three sides. All three sides must agree on their own on a final solution. In this context we do not have a defined standpoint or some defined plans. For instance, we have not got a map of Bosnia-Herzegovina which we would like to see. We would like to see all the three constituent nations of Bosnia-Herzegovina being finally able to agree on a map of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a part of a final solution. But, I did not come here, nor will I go to Sarajevo or some other places to directly say or propose to the people what they are to do. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Commentary on U.S. Involvement in Geneva Breakdown*AU0909115093 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 4 Sep 93 p 2*

[Commentary by Borislav Komad: "The Permanent Guilty Party"]

[Text] By punishing those who support a final and unconditional peace in the former central Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the top echelon of the U.S. Administration is literally pushing Alija Izetbegovic into another war that he will lose.

Although in Geneva he was given a gift that he did not deserve either militarily or diplomatically, the leader of the increasingly smaller number of Bosnian Muslims—after receiving a signal from his overseas sponsor Bill Clinton—not only "bravely" tossed the gauntlet in the direction of Radovan Karadzic and Mate Boban, he also tossed it to the world that had been expecting, with great hope, the end of the 16-month bloody drama.

There can be no doubt that, prior to leaving for Geneva, Alija Izetbegovic received clear signals from the White House instructing him on how to augment the gift with as many geographical percentages as possible.

The Serbian side, risking the justified dissatisfaction of a significant part of its population, made the final concession. It is obvious, however, that this was not enough to secure the agreement of Bill Clinton, rather than that of Alija Izetbegovic.

The U.S. President's first reaction after the already-prepared peace document remained unsigned by the leaders of the warring factions confirms that this is so.

Not only did the head of the White House—who shies away from peace that does not coincide with the U.S.'s strategic oil interests—encourage his protegee to leave Geneva, he also revived the almost forgotten threat that NATO, the western world's fist, had not abandoned the idea of a military intervention.

This cynicism would be incomplete were it not for the fact that, at the same time, Bill Clinton expressed "hope that the warring factions would carry on with the Geneva negotiations," which, of course, expresses his desire to end the next round according to the precise scenario of the White House and the Pentagon....

Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, immediately responded to the U.S. pressure and told Reuter that the Serbian side was particularly reluctant to give back conquered territories, which supposedly means that it is the only party to blame for the breakdown in Geneva.

We have to think of the fable about the wolf and the lamb, in which the latter is the victim because it "is stirring up the waters further down the river." The Serbian side will, no doubt, travel to Switzerland to

attend the next meeting, where—through threats of force—it will even have to give up the stream.

There exist, however, fables with an entirely different ending.

War Crime Commission Experts Visit Pale*LD0809222293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2156 GMT 8 Sep 93*

["Pool" item]

[Text] Pale, September 8 (TANJUG)—A team of experts of the International War Crime Commission on Wednesday visited Pale, the administrative centre of the Serb republic in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During talks with Bosnian Serb officials, the team learned more about the sufferings of the Serbs in the Bosnian civil war.

The war crime experts came to collect information and establish contacts with national war crime commissions of the three confronted sides in Bosnia—Muslim, Serb and Croat.

The team received, among other things, documents about the massacres of Serb civilians in Bratunac in the eastern part of Bosnia.

The three warring sides have so far presented information of varying quality, said a member of the commission after meeting with the Bosnian Serb officials. He added that the commission was very satisfied with the information obtained from the Serb side so far. He also expressed satisfaction with talks held with Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic.

The commission was set up on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 780, which called for investigation into all crimes committed in the Bosnian war.

The Serb republic has confidence in the United Nations and believes that the commission will conduct the investigation objectively, a Bosnian Serb government spokesman said.

He said the Bosnian Serb authorities were ready to fully cooperate with the commission in its task.

Bosnian Serb Information Minister Miroslav Toholj said he was under the impression that the team planned to deal with the matter in an objective and scientific way.

If this proves so, the world will finally learn the real truth and monstrous accusations against the Serbs will be seen as pure lies, he said.

Croat, Muslim Fighting Continues

HVO Kills 9 in Mostar, Wounds 40

AU0809201193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The Press Center of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army reports that the persecution of the Muslims in Mostar by the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] is coming to an end. The final results of this crime are, apart from the human casualties, the seizure of more than 200 million German marks, one metric ton of gold, and all movable and fixed assets.

Today, at approximately 1115 [0915 GMT] HVO units started shelling civilian buildings in Mostar and the defense lines. Nine civilians died and 40 were wounded. The Fourth Corps reports that on some of its fronts the army of the Serbo-Montenegrin aggressor and HVO troops are acting jointly, especially as regards shelling. Thus the town center has been attacked by antitank weapons from HVO positions throughout the day, while the Serbian aggressor has been firing large-caliber shells and 120-mm mortars from Merdjan Glava. [passage omitted]

Croats Expel Civilians

AU0809145993

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1300 GMT on 8 September carries in its regular 33-minute newscast two reports updating the fighting in the republic.

Correspondent Hajrudin Sermic reports on the situation in Maglaj and says that "the citizens of Maglaj are spending the day in their shelters (?because of attacks) by the Serbo-Chetnik aggressor and his faithful allies, Lozancic's troops. Since 1000 [0800 GMT] this morning the town has been pounded by two 122-mm howitzers from [name indistinct] and (?Drematina), and 120-mm and 82-mm mortars from Brusnicki (?Potok)."

Haldo Dervisebegovic reports from Jablanica and says that "units of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Croatian Army in the region of Dreznica, Jablanica, and Neretvica are intensifying their regular provocations and have included aircraft in their combat operations. Last night at around 2250, two Croatian Army aircraft flew over Dreznica and Jablanica, while in Neretvica, in and around Buturevic Polje, and the village of Lipicici they dropped eight bombs. Luckily there were no casualties. At around 1100 today, two Croatian Army aircraft bombed villages around Neretvica, while at 1145, an air raid alarm was sounded in Jablanica.

"During the night HVO troops from Dretelj again used trucks to expel around 300 exhausted and tortured prisoners from the Capljina, Stolac, and (?Bozac) region." He goes on to give details of the prisoners' appearance and says that they were "chased toward Dreznica, where they arrived at 0530 this morning. Only

half an hour later, the extremists from the mountains showered Dreznica with mortar shells. At 1220 they resumed shelling Jablanica with a tank situated in the HVO's stronghold on Tratina."

Bomb Muslim Villages

LD0809163693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1621 GMT 8 Sep 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 8 (TANJUG)—Two Croatian planes on Wednesday bombed Muslim villages in the Neretvica river valley in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Muslim-controlled Radio Sarajevo.

The radio said that the planes had dropped eight bombs on the Muslim-populated villages between Dreznica and Jablanica in the areas of Lipicici and Puturovic Polje.

The morning air raid on Jablanica was followed by artillery shelling in the afternoon.

During the night on Tuesday, the Bosnian Croat army transferred 350 Muslim prisoners from the notorious Dretelj prison to Dreznica, whence they are expected to be transported to Jablanica by Spanish peacekeepers during the day, the radio said.

Muslims and Croats, former allies against Bosnian Serbs, have been fiercely fighting each other in the last months for control of territories with mixed populations.

Heavy Croat Civilian Casualties

LD0809123793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report by Zdenko Vranjes]

[Excerpt] Fighting between the Muslim army and the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] carried on all night in Vitez area. The HVO command for central Bosnia has reported that HVO units routed the Muslim army from the villages of Divjak and Grbavica. Strong infantry and artillery battles are still in progress. At the same time, the Muslim army pounded all sections of the towns of Vitez and Bila. Two civilians have been killed and one has been wounded.

Last night Muslim guns also pounded the section of Novi Travnik under HVO control. Three civilians were wounded and one was killed by a sniper bullet. An infantry attack launched by Muslim forces on the nearby village of Vilenica was repelled this morning.

Three civilians were wounded last night in the center of Kresevo [west of Sarajevo], which was hit by several shells fired by the Muslim army.

All night the Muslim army pounded the village of Vrbica near Zavidovici with howitzers and mortars. Six civilians were killed, while 14 civilians—including two children—were seriously wounded and have been taken to hospitals in Zagreb this morning. [passage omitted]

Attacks on Vitez, Gornji Vakuf Regions Reported

AU0909090393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Report by 3d Corps Press Center]

[Excerpts] The free territory in the 3d Corps zone of responsibility was the target of frequent provocations yesterday, while in Vitez it was exposed to fierce attacks by the enemy forces. [Words indistinct] continued their attacks against the Vitez free territory. [Words indistinct], supported by artillery, attempted infantry breakthroughs against the free territory in the region of Grbavica. The enemy attacks [words indistinct] supported by artillery, used small arms and an anti-aircraft gun to launch incendiary shells that set several residential buildings on fire.

Intense sniper fire was also registered in the region, against the villages of Lukici and [name indistinct]. The [words indistinct] shelled our defense lines around Zepce near the village of (?Sirino) Polje with portable rocket launchers, howitzers, tanks, 120-mm and 82-mm mortars. Several civilians were injured, two of them seriously. [passage omitted]

The Gornji Vakuf free territory also came under attack yesterday by the [word indistinct] aggressor and the soldiers of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO]. Overnight, bombs were launched (?against the rear lines), the so-called (?Livanjske) bombs that are very destructive. The ensuing material damage is great. In the area of Visoko and [name indistinct] the aggressor provoked along the entire defense lines, with small arms, snipers, and anti-aircraft machine guns. [Words indistinct] On the [name indistinct] front, the HVO forces intensified their provocations against the defense lines using small arms, anti-aircraft machine guns, and 60-mm mortars.

Troops Reportedly Taking Positions on Mt Igman

AU0809122893 Paris AFP in English 1141 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By Dina Neretljak]

[Text] Sarajevo, Sept 8 (AFP)—United Nations military observers on Mount Igman have reported Bosnian army and Bosnian Serb troops preparing for a "possible" resumption in fighting on the strategic heights above Sarajevo, a UN official said Wednesday.

Major Idesbald Van Biesebroeck, UN press officer, said movements—involving 1,000 men on either side—were observed Monday night and early Tuesday afternoon inside the respective areas of the two parties.

Van Biesebroeck said there was no shooting but that troops were "busy putting themselves into position."

He said it was not clear exactly what was happening, as the movements were taking place at night, nor which side started troop movements first.

But he added that UN Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) were "afraid something is growing." He said UNPROFOR officials had the impression that the two contingents parties were "scared of each other."

Van Biesebroeck stressed that while troop movements had been observed in the area in the past, it was the first time since an August 13 agreement on the withdrawal of Serb forces that such maneuvers had been so obvious.

He said that apart from Serbs shelling Zuc hill in northern Sarajevo Tuesday there were no significant changes. But he warned that the situation in the city was "more tense" than in previous days.

According to UNPROFOR, the southern city of Mostar was relatively quiet Tuesday with some small arms and machinegun fire on the front lines and some explosions heard on the east bank of the Neretva River largely populated by Moslems.

Radio Sarajevo, however, reported heavy shelling in Mostar, with eight people dead.

Van Biesebroeck said UNPROFOR had noticed an increase in mainly Moslem Bosnian army troops on the east side of the Neretva in Mostar.

On Tuesday the representatives of the Bosnian army and the Bosnian Croat army, HVO [Croatian Defense Council], met in Medjugorje to discuss an exchange of prisoners of war.

It was reported quiet in Gornji Vakuf Tuesday, but a large concentration of Bosnian Croat army troops was spotted around Prozor and Makljen, south of Gornji Vakuf.

In Vitez Tuesday, the HVO launched an artillery and mortar attack on Bosnian army positions in the Bila region, near a British UN base.

A British soldier received a minor wound to his leg from a mortar fragment but will probably not need to be evacuated. The attack came as French General Jean Cot, UNPROFOR commander for ex-Yugoslavia, was visiting the area.

General Cot inspected UN troops in Vitez and Gornji Vakuf on Tuesday and was to travel to Visoko and Sarajevo on Wednesday.

Serbs Observing Mt Igman Agreement 'To the Letter'

LD0809224693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2051 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pale, 8 Sep (TANJUG)—General Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the Srpska republic army [VRS] general staff, told TANJUG's correspondent in Pale this evening that VRS units are observing to the letter the agreement on surrendering their positions on Mount Igman to peace keeping forces.

There are no movements of the VRS on Mount Igman, as the Muslims are claiming, said General Gvero. "We are deployed on the positions laid out by the agreement," he specified.

General Gvero denied the allegations made by the Muslim BH press agency which carried an alleged statement of unidentified UN Protection Force representative saying that on Igman and Bjelasnica "both sides are taking new positions and fresh clashes can be expected soon."

As far as the VRS is concerned, there is no reason for any clashes. We are observing the agreement to the letter, Gvero repeated.

He added that Serb military circles, however, have information on the Muslim side concentrating large forces in the region of Pazaric and Ivan-sedlo, as well as in the region of Tresnjevo Brdo, Aisnik, and Butilo.

Asked whether this means that—in such a situation—fresh Muslim attacks could be expected in these areas, Gvero replied: "We expect that the Muslims will behave in accordance with the chances they now have. I hope that they will not gamble away these chances, and if they are counting on any fresh attacks, it will be the best way to gamble them away."

General Gvero described cooperation between the Serb side and representatives of the peace keeping forces on Igman and Bjelasnica as "very correct."

UNPROFOR Officer Says Mt Igman 'Quiet, Stable'

AU0809181293 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, Sept 8 (AFP)—Bosnian and Bosnian Serb troops strengthened their positions Wednesday on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo but fears of renewed fighting on the strategic height receded, a UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman said.

Both sides had reinforced their positions earlier Wednesday within the boundaries set last month under a UN-brokered truce for the sector, but calm returned later in the day after a tense 48 hours, said UNPROFOR spokesman Idesbald van Biesebroeck.

Tension eased considerably during the day to leave the situation on the mountain quiet and very stable. Major van Biesebroeck told journalists at Sarajevo airport. [passage omitted]

Each side had about 20,000 men on Igman and the surrounding area, van Biesebroeck added. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in Brussels a source close to the Belgian Defence Ministry said 185 Belgian soldiers were to leave for Bosnia in the coming days.

The company of engineer corps troops will join 915 compatriots currently stationed in the former Yugoslavia as part of the UNPROFOR contingent, the source said.

Last month Belgian Defence Minister Leo Delcroix agreed in principle to send reinforcements following a UN request.

The engineer corps troops, who will be accompanied by bomb disposal experts will be responsible for maintaining roads to ensure access for winter aid convoys inside the war-torn republic.

Siber Criticizes UNPROFOR's Withdrawal From Mt Igman

AU0809152293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The guests at today's news conference at the International Press Center were Stjepan Siber, deputy commander of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, and Dr. Goran Coric, chief of staff of the medical service. Nedžad Leko reports:

[Begin recording] [Leko] Addressing domestic and foreign journalists, Stjepan Siber, deputy commander of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, spoke critically of the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly pointing at the (?unjustified) withdrawal from a part of Mt. Igman.

[Siber] Yesterday, UNPROFOR troops pulled out of Brezovaca and [passage indistinct] because of this event [passage indistinct] 8 September to intervene and that these troops be returned, because otherwise this would mean giving up the positions to the aggressor [word indistinct].

Let me recap that UNPROFOR still has not realized the agreement concerning Igman and Bjelasnica, as the Chetnik forces are still situated in Babin Dol with artillery and tanks.

[Leko] Stjepan Siber also pointed at the [word indistinct] of arrests and torture of, especially, the Muslims in Herzegovina:

[Siber] I should conclude that the Croatian Defense Council [HVO], that is to say, the HVO of the so-called Herceg-Bosna by this wants the Muslims in the

remaining part of Bosnia-Herzegovina to be equally extremist and [word indistinct] and start treating the Croats in the same way. The aim is to cause at all costs conflicts between the Muslims and the Croats in as many counties as possible, thus proving that they cannot live together, ethnically cleanse the territories, and drive them to [word indistinct]. The final aim is to gain at all costs the justification for this mini state of theirs that they have called Herceg-Bosna.

[passage omitted] [end recording]

UNPROFOR Denies Claims of Withdrawal

AU0909093293 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Van Biesebroeck, spokesman of the UN Peace Forces [UNPROFOR] in Sarajevo, denied the claim by the Muslim military authorities that the UNPROFOR representatives have withdrawn from Brezovaca on Mount Igman. In his statement for the Muslim agency B-H PRESS last night, van Biesebroeck explained the

reasons for the Muslim side's claims. He said that the UN observers leave their observing posts at Brezovaca because they do not want to remain isolated at these positions overnight, stressing that they return to their positions in the morning.

230 Diagnosed With Hepatitis in Sarajevo

LD0809122493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report by correspondent Ranko Mavrak from Sarajevo]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted rounding up situation] It has finally been officially announced that a hepatitis epidemic is spreading in Sarajevo. The epidemic has been triggered by the appalling hygienic conditions. The regional health institute says that the worst affected area is on the left bank of the Miljacka river, more precisely in Soukbunar. The total of 230 people have been registered as affected by the disease.

Three Soldiers Killed in Explosion Near Pakrac

LD0809133893 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in
Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Sep 93

["Urgent statement" issued by the Information Office of the Republic of Croatia Defense Ministry Political Department on 8 September—read by announcer]

[Text] At 1000 today, 8 September 1993, wreaths were to be laid and a house was to be visited in the village of Kusonje in the Pakrac area where members of the Croatian police were ambushed by terrorists in 1991 when 18 of them were treacherously killed. During the wreath-laying ceremony, at 1020 a strong explosion occurred killing three members of the Croatian army and seriously and lightly wounding eight people, including two Croatian television reporters and one member of the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR]. The venue was guarded by members of UNPROFOR and by the Croatian police. An investigation into the incident is underway and the public will be duly informed about its results.

Government To Protest to UN

LD0809150993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in
Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] [Announcer] It has been announced that the government will send a severe protest to Butrus-Ghali, the international community, and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] in Croatia, in connection with the tragic event that occurred in the village of Kusonje. Prime Minister Nikica Valentic said the following about the incident:

[Begin Valentic recording] I will take this opportunity to inform the government and our public about the tragic event that occurred in the village of Kusonje where a large group of people, including policemen, gathered at a ceremony to commemorate the death of 18 Croatian policemen in 1991 and the unveiling of a monument. The consequences of the terrorist mortar attack are three dead and seven wounded.

This act—in its tragic consequences, but more so its morbid motive of shooting at people in a graveyard—testifies to our enemies' intentions. At the same time this attack demands a resolute and clear stand on the part of our government. I suggest that the sharpest protest be sent to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and to the UNPROFOR in Croatia stressing their shared responsibility for this terrorist act. More importantly, we should issue a serious warning and voice our government's official position—that if they are not capable of preventing terrorist attacks on Croatian citizens from UN protected areas, then the Croatian Government will find a way to solve this problem on its own using the legitimate means at its disposal. [end recording]

Krajina Serbs Deny Involvement

LD0809173193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in
Serbo-Croatian 1653 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Knin, 8 September (TANJUG)—The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] today denied that the RSK army had anything to do with the explosion in the village of Kosanje in western Slavonia.

The RSK Foreign Ministry was authorized to issue a statement saying that the RSK army had nothing to do with the case. Croatia's intention is obvious, similar to the intention behind the case in the Vaso Miskin street in Sarajevo [in which people lining up to get bread were killed when gunners outside the city began to shell them]: To win over public opinion and the international community for its premeditated evil deeds and aggression against the RSK, the ministry statement says.

Tudjman Reiterates Support for Geneva Plan

LD0909114193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in
Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Message by President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman to participants in the session of the Vienna group of the committee of CSCE high officials in Vienna "today"; read by announcer—recorded]

[Text] (?Following) the political dialogue within the CSCE and expressing readiness to continue supporting and actively contributing to all CSCE activities, the Republic of Croatia wants to inform the CSCE members about its stands on the current political events and processes.

1. The main task of Croatia's policy is currently to make sure that the UN protected areas are integrated into the republic's territory and legal system in line with UN Security Council resolutions. Any extension of the UN Protection Force's [UNPROFOR's] mandate in Croatia must be based on these principles.

2. The peaceful reintegration of the protected areas into the Republic of Croatia is an integral part of the overall political settlement of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The Republic of Croatia therefore cannot agree with the lifting of the sanctions against Yugoslavia or approve Serbia and Montenegro's membership in international organizations, including the CSCE, until a peaceful settlement for the protected areas in Croatia is reached.

3. Concerning the ending of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina by peaceful means, Croatia believes that in the present situation the solution offered in the framework of the Geneva peace conference is realistic. Since the constitutional proposal of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a union of ethnic republics guarantees the national and political survival of the Bosnian Croats, the Republic of Croatia is ready to resume the negotiations at any time to find a solution acceptable for all three communities.

4. Adhering to its commitment that the delivery of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina and all other war-stricken areas of the former Yugoslavia must continue, Croatia believes that humanitarian aid cannot depend on any conditions, and that unhindered access to all those who need the humanitarian aid must be guaranteed.

Granic Demands Changes in UNPROFOR Mandate

LD0809160393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said in Vienna today that Croatia will not be able to extend the mandate of UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR], which is due to expire on 30 September, unless the mandate is altered. Minister Granic also said that he will tomorrow demand the expulsion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from CSCE and the UN.

[Perincic] This is Andjelko Perincic reporting from Vienna. Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister

and foreign minister, said at a news conference that the coming winter could be very dangerous for the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina unless humanitarian convoys and International Red Cross and CSCE missions are allowed access to people in danger.

At a news conference held following a meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the nine central and eastern European countries dealing with the security situation in that part of the continent, Granic added that all [prison] camps run by all three warring parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina should be closed down immediately.

Questioned about the occupied areas in Croatia, Deputy Prime Minister Granic, who took part in the meeting accompanied by Defense Minister Gojko Susak, said the current mandate of the blue helmets should be strengthened, or their mission should be canceled due to their ineffectiveness thus far. In any event, he added, the Croatian Government is committed to the peaceful integration of those areas into our country's economic, legal, and social system. [passage omitted]

Federal

Daily Claims Government To Resign 22 September

AU0909082793 Belgrade POLITIKA EKSPRES in Serbo-Croatian 8 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Is Government Falling?"]

[Text] As we have unofficially found out from reliable sources, the Federal Government led by Radoje Kontic is supposed to resign at the next session of both chambers of the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] Assembly. The real reasons for that are unknown for now, but we have been told that it was a matter of a "voluntary" handing over of power.

According to a proposal coming from Montenegro, the new prime minister should be from Serbia.

By the way, this session, which should be held on 22 September, is to deal with the law on the Yugoslav Army, as well as several other regulations.

Kontic Denies Claim

AU0909082893 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 8 Sep 93 p 8

[N. P. report: "Kontic: I Know Nothing About Government Falling"]

[Text] "I know nothing about the fall of the (Federal) Government," Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic told POLITIKA last night after being asked to comment on an article in today's POLITIKA EKSPRES claiming that "reliable sources" had it that Kontic's cabinet would "voluntarily" resign at the next session of both chambers of the FRY Assembly on 22 September.

"This is the first I hear of it. I do not know if the government will fall. I will have to find out what is going on."

According to POLITIKA EKSPRES, a proposal was put forward by Montenegro that the new prime minister should be from Serbia.

"Ministers decide on that," Kontic said, "We will see. September 22 is close. I have had a hard day. You have made me laugh."

Jovanovic Reports on Visits to Beijing, Kiev, Moscow

LD0809185193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1823 GMT 8 Sep 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Moscow, Sept 8 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic said on Wednesday that his visits to China, Ukraine and Russia were part of

Yugoslavia's efforts to challenge and break through an unjust and inhumane isolation of the country by some forces in the world.

Summarising the results of the visits, Jovanovic told the Yugoslav correspondents in Moscow that Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) had made a great contribution to Geneva talks on peace for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that Yugoslavia had received recognition for its efforts in all three countries which he had visited, and that most of the world had become aware of them, so that it was becoming impossible to perpetuate the isolation.

Beijing, Kiev and Moscow expect Yugoslavia to continue to pursue its constructive policy and are willing to help lift the sanctions as soon as peace is reached in former Yugoslavia, said Jovanovic.

The U.N. Security council imposed draconic sanctions against Yugoslavia in late May of 1992 for its alleged involvement in the civil war in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, although Yugoslavia had no troops there.

China has always been against the sanctions and did not vote for them in the Security Council, said Jovanovic.

As for Ukraine and Russia, the sanctions have an adverse effect on them, too, so it is in their interest that they be lifted as soon as possible, he explained.

'Positively Surreal' Effects of Sanctions Described

AU0909082493 Paris AFP in English 0254 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Report by Nicolas Miletitch]

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 9 (AFP)—Hyper-inflation has wreaked havoc on the economy of rump Yugoslavia, crippled by 15 months of United Nations sanctions, and created situations that are positively surreal. "The sticker on a bottle of oil is worth more than the contents and the glass," complains Dragisa Nikolic, owner of a private shop in Belgrade.

Yugoslavs are rushing to spend their dinars as quickly as they can because the currency loses about one percent of its value every hour against the German mark, the main currency traded on the black market.

With one dollar equivalent to 600 million dinars, prices are marked in billions of dinars in Yugoslavia's crumbling economy.

Meat, sugar, milk, oil and washing powder are virtually unobtainable, the shops are empty and more than 60 percent of transactions are carried out on the black market, according to the Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce.

"The economic situation in Belgrade today is worse than during World War II under the German occupation," says economist Ljubomir Madjar.

The United Nations imposed an embargo on economic, financial, oil and air links with rump Yugoslavia—Serbia and Montenegro—in May last year, accusing its leaders of being key instigators of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Yugoslav government recently introduced rationing to enable the population to buy some flour, sugar, salt, oil and washing powder at reduced prices each month.

About 90 percent of rump Yugoslavia's 10 million people are living in poverty, according to the Yugoslav Red Cross.

Faced with spiralling price inflation Luka Mackic, director of Belgrade's Robna Kuca department stores, has decided to close 42 shops. Another major retailer, the Centrotekstil chain, has also said it will also close numerous outlets.

In August inflation rose by 1,887 percent compared with July. The billion-dinar banknote was worth nearly three dollars when it went into circulation on August 30, but ten days later its value had halved.

Aleksandra Posarac, a researcher at Belgrade's Institute of Economic Sciences, compares rump Yugoslavia with South American societies "where 80-90 percent of the people are poor and 10 percent extremely rich."

Hospitals lack medicines and food for their patients, and the onset of winter is feared for the fuel shortages it will bring.

If sanctions are not lifted, the average annual income in Serbia and Montenegro, which stood at 3,000 dollars in 1990, will plunge to 350 dollars by the end of this year, the daily Politika forecasts.

That would place Yugoslavia between the Central African Republic and Uganda in the world league table of incomes per head of population.

"The sanctions threaten to totally destroy Yugoslavia's economic and financial system," Yugoslavia's Prime Minister Radoje Kontic told the Belgrade-based TANJUG news agency.

Serbia

Sanctions Part of 'Scramble for Europe'

AU0809204993 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Radoslav Nikolic report]

[Excerpt] Serbia's policy toward the war in former Yugoslavia has not changed from the beginning until today, Serbian Assembly Chairman Zoran Arandjelovic stressed in Svilajnac, at a meeting of the Communal

Committee of the Socialist Party with successful entrepreneurs from this commune.

Many people who used to claim that a incorrect policy was being pursued toward the Serbs in the war-torn territories say the opposite nowadays. For this reason Serbia, which has not changed a single one of its principles, must prove itself in the struggle for peace by constantly responding to the new conditions put forward by the international protagonists, which are not in the interests of the nations that are surrounded. [sentence as heard]

[Begin Arandjelovic recording] What is happening now is that further divisions are being pursued. The scramble for Europe continues in such a way that anyone, that is to say, those who are the strongest, can steer this the way they find prudent. At the same time through pressure on the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia], although they are allegedly struggling for peace by this, they want to accomplish what could not be accomplished by political means—changes of a political nature resulting from possible mounting economic problems and social tensions—in which somebody is interested, somebody who is bothered by this kind of Serbia and the FRY, and for whom they are a thorn in his side. For these reasons they are creating their own buffer zones around the encirclement and exerting pressure that is not merely economic—such economic pressure is visible and very grave—but of other kinds, and so affects people that when they lie down in the evening they do not know what will await them the following morning. [end recording]

Arandjelovic later spoke of the measures by the Serbian and FRY Governments to organize supplies of staple foods to citizens. He particularly emphasized that any speculation with cheap food will be resolutely quashed. [passage omitted]

Montenegro

Minister 'Not Aware' of Closure of Foreign Ministry

AU0809150193 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] I am not aware that the possibility of closing the Foreign Ministry of Montenegro is being considered at all, nor am I aware of any more serious arguments for this course of action. This was stated by Montenegrin Foreign Minister Miodrag Lekic in today's issue of POBJEDA.

The constitutional grounds for the existence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro are clear. The real needs for international activities are even more pronounced. Therefore, the ministry is working normally and expects to conduct important activities in the future, Lekic said.